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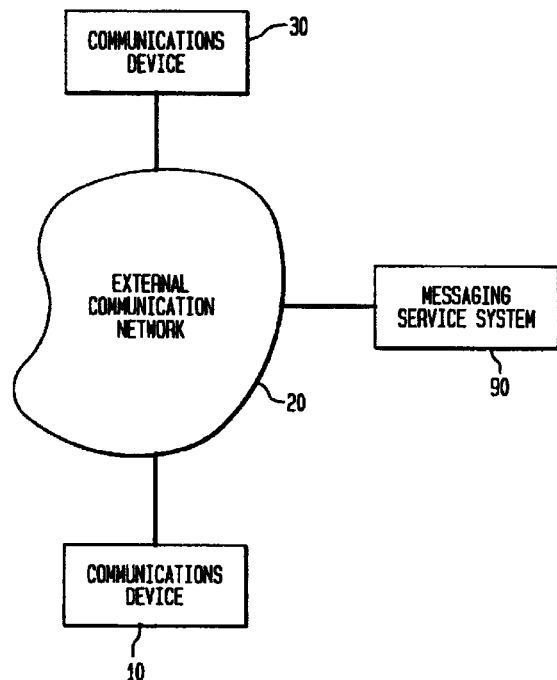
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(54) **Enhanced, deferred messaging service**

(57) An enhanced, deferred messaging service ensures a message is received even when an answering machine is connected to a line and receives the call. In such a case, the service notes the number of rings n necessary to activate the recipient's answering machine. The service then resumes redialing and lets the phone ring $n - 1$ times for each attempted call until either the phone is answered or a time-out occurs. If the recipient's answering machine, however, is in toll-saver mode, then the answering machine may answer a second time in less than $n - 1$ rings. If the toll-saver feature is activated, then the service notes the number of rings m which caused the answering machine to be reached in toll-saver mode. The service then resumes redialing and lets the phone ring $m - 1$ times for each attempted call until either the phone is picked up or a time-out occurs. Thus, even after leaving a message on an answering machine, the service will attempt to reach a human.

FIG. 1



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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

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Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.6)
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			H04M
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search		Date of completion of the search	Examiner
THE HAGUE		20 June 2000	Vandevenne, M
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS			
X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	

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**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
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For more details about this annex : see Official Journal of the European Patent Office, No. 12/82